

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1035

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJ: US/JAPAN SALMON DISCUSSIONS

1. AGREEMENT ON INTERIM MEASURES TO PROTECT ANTICIPATED LOW RUN OF BRISTOL BAY RED SALMON IN 1976 REACHED JAN. 22 AFTER TWO-DAY DISCUSSION. GOJ HAS AGREED TO IMPLEMENTATION DOESTIC VOLUNTARY MEASURES PROHIBITING OPERATION OF JAPANESE SALMON MOTHERSHIP FLEETS IN FOLLOWING AREAS AND URING FOLLOWING TIME PERIODS.

A. AREA NORTH OF ALEUTIAN ISLANDS EXTENDING TO 55DEG N LATITUDE BETWEEN LONGITUDES 175 DEG W AND 180 DEG--CLOSED TO SALMON FISHING MAY 15 TO JUNE 25 INCLUSIVE (SAME MEASURES IMPLEMENTED IN 1975).

B. AREAS SOUTH OF ALEUTIAN ISLANDS EXTENDING SOUTH TO 48 DEG N LATITUDE BETWEEN LONGTITUDES 175DEG W AND 178DEG 15' E--CLOSED TO SALMON FISHING MAY 15 TO JUNE 20 INCLUSIVE. (IN 1975 WESTERN BOUNDARY WAS ESTABLISHED 45 MIN FURTHER WESTARD AT 177 DEG 30' E.)

2. JAPAN CLAIMED US FORECAST OF 12 MISSION UNDER- ESTIMATED RUN AND FORECASTED ON BAISIS OF THEIR DATA THAT RUN WOULD LIKELY BE CLOSER TO 18 MILLION FISH. BOTH SIDES AGREED NOT TO DEBTE DIFFERENCES IN FORECAST ESTIMATES BUT AGREED ON IMPORTANCE AND DESIRABILITY OF
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EXCHANGING DATA ON TIMELY BASIS AND IN IMPROVING FORE-

CASTS AS MANAGEMENT TOOL SO THAT APPROPRIATE CONVERSATION MEASURES CAN BE IMPLEMENTED WHEN NECESSARY. INTERIM MEASURES AGREED TO SHOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE JAPANESE INTERCEPTION OF BRISTOL BAY SALMON AND PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL PROTECTION TO ANTICIPATED LOW RUN THIS COMING FISHING SEASON.

3. PROBLEM RELATING TO INTERCEPTION IN NORTHERN CENTRAL BERING SEA BY JAPANESE MOTHERSHIP FLEETS OF CHINOOK SALMON OF ALASKAN ORIGIN STILL UNRESOLVED. US HAS PROPOSED JAPANESE FISHING EFFORT IN AREA NORTH OF 55DEG N BETWEEN LONGITUDES 175DEG N AND 180DEG BE LIMITED TO 5000,000 TONS (LEVEL OF 1973-1974 EFFORT). JAPANESE GREATLY CONCERNED THAT ANY LIMITATIONS PLACED ON THEIR FISHING EFFORT WILL HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON THEIR FISHERY FOR CHU SALMON OF AISAN ORIGIN. US DEL SEEKING ASSURANCES THAT JAPAN WILL TAKE POSITIVE MEASURES WHICH WILL ASSIST IN SOLUTION OF PROBLEM. FURTHER DISCUSSION FO JAN. 23.

4. SINCE CHINOOK PROBLEM CONCERNS CANADA, CANADA REPRESENTED AT DISCUSSIONS BY SCIENTIST J. MAC DONALD AND EMBASSY OFFICER. EFFORTS ARE BEING CLOSELY COORDINATED BETWEEN US AND CANADIAN DELEGATIONS.

5. DISCUSSION ON LONG-RANGE SALMON CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS SCHEDULED FOR JAN. 26-28. GOJ HAS AGREED TO DISCUSS POINTS PROPOSED BY US DEL.

6. FYI US DEL PLEASED AT PROGRESS OF DISCUSSIONS TO DATE.
SHOESMITH

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